(d) The time frame will depend on the decision of the Hon'ble Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction/High Court.

Recommendions of Mashelkar Committee

1972. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mashelkar Committee on spurious drugs has recommended to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and rules to include a range of herbal and cosmetic formations in its purview; and

(b) if so, the details and the steps initiated by Government to amend the law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMAT PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Herbal drugs and cosmetic formulations are already being regulated under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. However, the Mashelkar Committee had suggested certain improvements in the regulatory procedures and classifications etc. These recommendations are under action consideration of the Department of AYUSH.

Import of cheap drugs from China

1973. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of cheap drugs from China has hit the drug manufacturers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to protect the interest of bulk drug manufacturers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The Bulk Drug Manufacturers Association (India) and Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (PHARMEXCIL) have informed that especially because of low value imports of drugs from China, Indian manufacturers of drugs like

Paracetamol, Analgin, Ciproflixacin (groups), Metronidazole and Diclofenac Sodium etc. have been seriously affected. Besides this, one of the reasons of closure of the Public Sector Plant of M/s. IDPL at Rishikesh manufacturing Pencillin G, Ampicillin, Amoxycillin, Tetracycline and Oxytetracycline and their Hyderabad Plan manufacturing Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Folic Acid, Chloroquine Phosphate and Alpha Methyl Dopa is cheaper bulk drug imports from China. The Public Sector Plant of M/s. Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. manufacturing Penicillin has also been closed because of the same reason.

The Chinese bulk drugs are cheaper when compared to Indian products because of economies of scale, tariffs of power and tax structure etc.

The Government of India has been giving some protection by levying Anti-dumping/related duties. The Directorate General Anti Dumping under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, initiates proceedings wherever complaints are received by them of such dumping and if proved, levy anti-dumping duties. Besides this, registration for all imports of bulk drugs is compulsory with Drug Controller General (India) under the Foreign Trade Policy. Further, the Government is contemplating to revive IDPL and HAL.

Excise duty on drugs

1974. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the excise duty imposed on all the drugs are uniform in all States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) In general, drugs, medicines attract excise duty @ 16%. However some full/partial exemptions/concessions from central excise duties on specified drugs and medicines are presently in force. Besides this, as per the decision earlier taken by the Government the Central Excise duty has been